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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/754,925	01/10/2004	Tien Huang		8358

23616 7590 05/25/2005

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FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA 92708

EXAMINER

GIBSON, ROY DEAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3739

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/754,925	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HUANG, TIEN	
	<b>Examiner</b> Roy D. Gibson	<b>Art Unit</b> 3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 recites the limitation "the sidewalls" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kapralis et al. (4,580,547). Kapralis et al. disclose a flexible (foldable) heat pack (10) (capable of warming an acupuncture needle) comprising a super cooled salt solution (12) of aqueous sodium acetate which is a liquid at room temperature but is a solid after the crystallization is activated) and a metallic exothermic crystallization trigger (34 and col. 1, line 25-col. 2, line 65 and col. 3, line 36-col. 4, line 22).

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section

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351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Noice et al. (US 2003/0163087). Noice et al. disclose a flexible (foldable) warming device (container, pouch or pad # 10, capable of warming an acupuncture needle) comprising a super cooled salt solution of aqueous sodium acetate which is a liquid at room temperature but is a solid after the crystallization is activated) and an adhesive tape mounted to the plastic container for maintaining the container in a closed folded position (page 1, [0015 – 0021] and [0025]).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noice et al. in view of Fiedler et al. (4,572,158). Noice et al. fails to disclose the trigger is a thin metal plate mechanism having slits that a user can depress through the sidewalls. But, Fiedler et al. disclose a trigger to activate such solutions with a thin sheet of metallic material with slits essentially as claimed (col. 2, line 44-col. 4, line 19). Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Noice et al., as taught by Fiedler et al., to provide an alternative

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trigger device to activate the crystallization process which produces heat by an exothermic reaction.

Claims 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noice et al. It is clear from the disclosure of Noice et al. that the warming device can be shaped into a cylinder (Figures 1 and 5).

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 7-16 are allowed.

#### ***Conclusion***

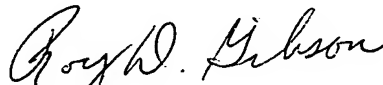
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Collins (6,231,596) disclose a surgical instrument warming device which folds and comprises an adhesive or equivalent means to hold the container in a folded position; Manker (5,800,492) discloses an adhesive warming bag designed to be positioned in a folded configuration; Walters (5,305,733) discloses a trigger to activate super-cooled aqueous salt solutions for use in a heat pack; Mintz (5,184,613) discloses a thermal pack designed to fold and a means to hold the container in a folded position; Oblon (4,722,323) discloses a rigid device for heating a material therein, is in a cylindrical shape, but lacks a trigger activated by manual depression; and Toyama (3,875,944) discloses a heated acupuncture needle heated by molded charcoal.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roy D. Gibson whose telephone number is 571-272-4767. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on 571-272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Roy D. Gibson  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3739

May 24, 2005